2008 for which the selection process is going on, following provisions have been kept by the State Government to encourage appointment of SC and ST categories.

(i) The eligibility condition relating to education qualification of 'Matriculation' may be relaxed in case of SC & ST candidates.

(ii) Preference will be given to candidates from ST categories in the blocks falling in Integrated Tribal Development Agency areas and to members of Primitive Tribal Groups in.micro project areas.

Winding up the PDS

1212. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to wind up public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on the procurement prices of foodgrains and role of Central warehouses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Death due to starvation

1213. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether many cases of death due to starvation have been reported from various parts of the country and even in National Capital during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken to provide foodgrains to the affected families in the country in order to check such cases in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No incident of starvation death has been reported by any State/Union Territory including National Capital so far.

(c) For maintaining food security in the country, the Government is allocating foodgrains at subsidized rates for people living under Below Poverty Line (BPL), Above Poverty line (APL) and Antodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). While allocations of rice and wheat for the BPL and AAY families are made @ 35 kg. per family per month, for the APL families the allocations are made depending upon offtake in previous years and in quantities which can be accommodated in the Central pool.

In addition, the Department allocates foodgrains for the following Welfare Schemes at BPL issue prices;

(i) Mid day Meal, (administered by Ministry of Human Resource Development).